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associated with Quaternary mammals such as the tapir, horse, mastodon, mammoth, megatherium, dinotherium, etc.

The Maryland Academy of Sciences held its annual meeting in May, electing Rev. Dr. J. G. Morris, President, and Rev. E. A. Dalrymple, Corresponding Secretary, with the usual officers. This society holds field meetings, and otherwise shows considerable activity.

The State Geological Rooms at Springfield, Illinois, were burned on the twenty-second of February, and the state collections were greatly damaged by water and hasty removal.

The Record of Entomology for the year 1870 is now published. The design of this useful annual is to collect from various periodicals and transactions of societies, the titles of articles and notices of new discoveries in entomology, thus giving a record of the progress of American entomology each year. In this way the isolated descriptions of new species, and notes about the habits of insects are indicated so that the working entomologist is greatly aided in collecting the materials for study. It also gives foreign entomologists a summary of what has been done in this country, and thus brings the working entomologists of both hemispheres into closer relations. The work is advertised in the present number.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

S. J., Hudson, Mass.—The plant you send is the *Habenaria virescens*. It belongs to the Orchis family and is not uncommon in wet places where the skunk cabbage grows.
—J. L. R.

C. G. A., Augusta, Me.—The specimens you send from the pine tree of about sixty feet in height are pronounced by Prof. Gray to be unquestionably from the *Pinus Banksiana* as you supposed. Your Orland tree is remarkable for its height.

S. S. C.,—Speaking of the enemies of the oyster a correspondent writes:—"Along the tidal rivers and sounds of East Florida are vast beds of oysters, many of which are seen when the tide falls to have been opened and the animal removed. It was difficult to understand by what agency this was done. Inquiring of an intelligent native pilot and fisherman, I was told that the Sheepshead and Drum, fishes whose principal food consists of crustacea and mollusks, are able with their strong jaws and pavement-like teeth to crush the shells of the oyster sufficiently to extract the animal. Moreover, the Conch (Turbo), [Does not our correspondent mean the Strombus?] which shell-fish is very common on these coasts, inserts its hard and horny operculum (which well represents an oyster knife), between the shells, pries them open, and sucks out the oyster with a fleshy tube, or proboscis. This Conch, which is from six to ten inches long, puts out a foot, upon which it can travel along the bottom. It walks to the oyster bed, deliberately pries open the oyster, and takes him raw on the half shell; a remarkable performance indeed, for a Gasteropod." We submitted this communication to an eminent naturalist, who has spent much time exploring in Florida, who replies as follows:—"Gasteropods do not open oysters with their opercula. The Turbo in fact is a vegetable feeder. The oysters are killed by frost in severe 'northers,' and when the animal decomposes, the shells, of course, open by the elasticity of the cartilage. No fish has teeth strong enough to crush oyster shells; they frequent the beds for the smaller shells and crustacea which harbor there."